



Metro Codes

E—News For Professionals

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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Mayor Dean Presents "State of Metro" Address



Mayor Karl Dean delivers the 45th Annual "State of Metro" address at the Downtown Library.

Photo courtesy of Gary Layada

Mayor Karl Dean made the 45th annual State of Metro address from the Grand Reading Room at the Downtown Public Library on May 13 on the anniversary of the signing of the Cumberland Compact.

Dean said the compact, as the first governing document for Fort Nashborough, was "a reminder to us today that the decisions we make now ... create the city that future residents will live in tomorrow."

Throughout the address, Dean reinforced his top priorities, namely education and public safety. These are the issues Dean has spent the majority of his time working on since taking office eight months ago. He also proposed a budget to Metro Council in March that he said reflects these priorities.

Dean announced two new initiatives coinciding with his focus on education and public safety. Dean announced Nashville has been selected to participate in an initiative with the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families to bring a network of high school alternatives to Metro Nashville Public Schools.

"This partnership will bring additional smaller-learning communities to our district, like the Big Picture School that started this year. It means we will be taking a positive step toward meeting more of our students' needs," Dean said. "This partnership is an opportunity. But I want to be clear, it is not a panacea. We need to continue to look for ways to innovate and to challenge the status quo."

Nashville was chosen as one of only two cities for the Alternative High School Initiative as part of a competitive bid process, which was led by staff from Dean's office and Vice Mayor Diane Neighbors.

"This process will allow local government and Metro schools to work in cooperation with community groups to develop creative learning environments that allow students to succeed. It has taken a lot of work by a lot of partners to get to this point and we look forward to the coming year," Neighbors said.

Dean also announced he will propose funding the capital budget for a DNA lab for Metro Police.

"Our police department currently relies on the TBI for this service, but so does more than 400 other state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies in Tennessee. ... I believe with our own DNA lab, more criminal suspects will be identified and arrested, making your family safer and mine," Dean said.



Photo courtesy of Gary Layada

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State of Metro Speech Highlights

Education

Nashville has been selected to participate in an Alternative High School

Dean called for more innovative approaches for recruiting teachers to Metro Nashville Public Schools

Funding has been proposed in the operating budget for an Attendance Center to be run by Juvenile Courts

Public Safety

Nashville will likely have a fully-staffed Police Department by the end of the year

Funding will be proposed in the capital budget for a DNA

Funding has been proposed for three new ambulances for Metro Fire

Economic Development

A Consular Office of Japan opened in Nashville this year

Pre-development work on a new downtown convention center is underway

A procurement nondiscrimination ordinance was passed recently

Dean discussed the future of downtown Nashville, including the development of SoBro and a new Riverfront Park

Environment

Dean has called for recycling in all Metro buildings and at large public events, and energy efficient, cost saving measures to be implemented in all Metro buildings

The Metro fleet policy is under review to find ways to reduce fuel consumption

Policy Change

A Message from the Director

Effective July 1st, the Department of Codes & Building Safety will no longer accept applications for Plumbing, Electrical or Mechanical Permits over the FAX machine. Customers need to make arrangements to apply in person or over the internet - using our ePermits system.

In August of 2007, the department added ePermits to the group of online services available to our customers. Since August, the department has conducted 25 training sessions, which have been attended by more than 400 of our customers, to demonstrate how to apply for trade permits using our 'ePermits' internet site.

The ePermits service allows our customers to register with the department for secure access to the Codes internet system. There, a customer can make inspection requests, check the status of an inspection, view permit information, pay for reinspection fees, and apply for trade (MP&E) permits. Not only can a customer make application for a permit on-line, but they can also pay for the permit using a credit card and issue the permit to themselves.

Effective July 1st

The Department of Codes & Building Safety will no longer accept applications for Plumbing, Electrical or Mechanical Permits over the FAX machine.

Our customers have embraced the convenience of the ePermit system and the response has been tremendous. During the past 6 months, customers have applied for, paid for and self-issued 5,963 permits, online. Today, almost 40% of the trade permits issued by the department are processed online, using ePermits.

On or before June 30th, we will also be adding 'building permits' to the ePermit system. We will begin by adding 'residential' building permits for new home construction, remodeling, additions and alterations.

To register to use the ePermits system, contact Carla Langley-Smith by email at carla.langley@nashville.gov

What Our Customers Are Saying About ePermits

By all accounts, E-Permitting is meeting and exceeding expectations of Metro's Codes and Building Safety Department, but more importantly it is meeting with great success with those contractors, builders and developers who are utilizing its timesaving features.

Codes & Building Safety expanded its 'On-line Services' to include 'E-permits' in September of last year. The new service gives contractors the ability to access to the department's internet site and receive authorization to apply for electrical, plumbing or mechanical permits on-line.

Not only do many customers apply for the permits, but they may also pay for the permits with a credit card and issue the permits to themselves, without ever setting foot in a Metro office.

"All I have received are great reviews from contractors," said Doris McGee. "They are saying it saves time by not having to drive here and now since the gas prices are going up, they are pleased it saves on gas as well."

Ms. McGee said one contractor simply put it this way, "I love it."

When asked about utilizing E-permitting, Doug Elam from ABEC Electric Company was thankful for Metro's instituting the Kiva system, the on-line processing program now available to the public for permit requests as well as inspection requests.

"As much as we enjoy seeing you and your staff when we come down, it is really a blessing to not have to waste time in your waiting area. The system is simple and easy to use and to date I don't know of any mistakes that have been made because of its use," Elam said.

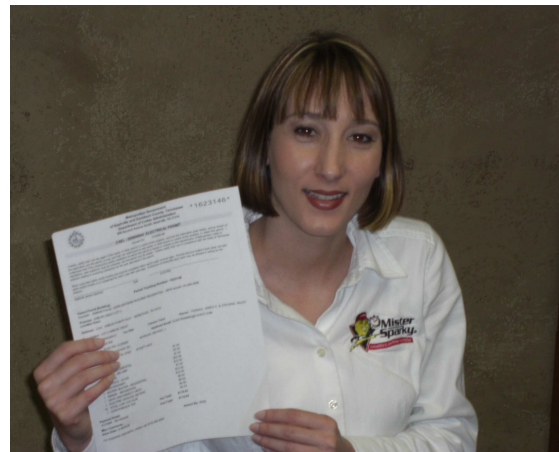
Elam said his day starts before Codes and Building Safety officials begin their work day and often ends after the department has closed. The 24 hour a day access gives his company the ability to get permits, request and check inspections on his schedule.

"With the time and, these days, the gasoline that is saved by using on-line systems, I can't imagine why any one would not use it to pull permits," Elam said.

Here are some other comments:

"There are a lot of great things about using Kiva to issue your own permits over the Internet. I don't have to go to Metro Codes and sit in long lines. I can use my time for more productive things. I can use my credit card to pay for the permit. Not only does it save gas and time, it is easy to use. The only bad thing about it is simple: I miss getting to chat with the girls in permit issuance. As much time as I spent pulling permits up there, I grew to love them." said Michelle Frisse of Elektra Electric.

"It is a great and simple tool to use. It is a very intuitive system. I enjoy using Kiva Citizen because it is more convenient, less time consuming and more cost effective," said Melissa Jones from I/S Engineering and Utilities, Inc.



Michelle Frisse with Elektra Electric proudly displays the self-issued electrical permit she obtained using the E-Permitting process.

Photo courtesy of Elektra Electric



A History of Dept. of Codes & Building Safety

The "History of Codes" continues to raise public awareness not only of the role the Dept. of Codes & Building Safety has played in the community, but its continuing role as the other "public safety" department of Metropolitan government.

"This series provides an opportunity for the public to see the contribution that the Codes Department has made as it addresses building and public safety issues as well as quality of life issues that have affected the community," said Terry Cobb, director of Codes and Building Safety.

Cobb, who has served as the Director of Dept. of Codes & Building Safety since 1990, believes that this series will go a long way toward answering many questions that the public may have regarding Codes and its policies.

The series titled, "The Metro Department of Codes and Building Safety Presents..." has been produced in cooperation with Metro Channel 3 and marks the first time that a program concerning Codes Administration has been featured on the local government channel.

"A History of Codes" is a series of 10 programs which highlights the role that it has played in the evolution of Nashville into a major American city.

Acting Zoning Examinations Chief Named

Joey Hargis has been named Acting Zoning Examinations Chief for the Codes and Building Safety Department, according to Terry Cobb, department director.

Hargis, who joined the department in 1996, replaces Rick Shepherd who retired earlier this year.



As Acting Zoning Examinations Chief, his principle duties include reviewing site plans for compliance with Metro's zoning ordinance and as a specialist in day care permitting. In addition, he serves as Secretary for the Board of Zoning Appeals. His duties include presenting cases for the Board in public hearing, public notices, case preparation, and as point of contact for the public.

"I am attending law school to complete a goal I had set for myself some time back. I would like to practice in the areas of land use and zoning, governmental relations, and real estate," Hargis said.

He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Geography with an emphasis in City and Regional Planning. After graduation from Western Kentucky, Hargis worked for Office Depot in computer sales for about a year then took a job with Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon in Nashville in the Information Systems department as technical support specialist. Joey also worked for the Metro Planning Commission prior to joining the Codes Department.

List of Adopted Codes

Effective May 1, 2007

2006 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS
 2006 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS*
 2006 INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS*
 2006 INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS*
 2006 INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS*
 2006 UNIFORM FIRE CODE (NFPA 1)
 2006 LIFE SAFETY CODE (NFPA 101)
 2002 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS
 2006 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE
 2003 ICC/ANSI A-117.1 ACCESSIBLE AND USABLE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES
 1998 METROPOLITAN COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE***

May is Deck Safety Month

Tips for a Safe Summer Season on Your Deck

Gas prices are on the rise again, the number of people traveling is down and families are choosing to spend more time at home enjoying their decks. And with so many accessories available that make the yard an oasis -- from solar fountains and fire pit tables to stainless gas grills -- the deck extends the living space and creates an at-home vacation spot according to the American rental Association.

Whether for entertainment, family time or just quiet enjoyment, a well-built deck offers a safe haven for outdoor living. A deck offers increased square footage and better pay back than a kitchen or bath remodel. As with any sound investment, it's important to do proper maintenance to preserve the integrity of the deck.

The number of deck failures and resulting injuries has been increasing at an alarming rate. Between August 2004 and December 2005, the U.S. news media reported 225 injuries and one fatality from deck collapses caused by ledger connection failures. Many more deck failures -- with and without injuries -- went unreported in the media.

In an effort to save lives and prevent injuries, the North American Deck and Railing Association, Inc. (NADRA) declared May as the first Deck Safety Month in 2006. Now in its second year, the purpose of the promotion is to increase public awareness of the necessity for regular inspection and maintenance of existing decks, and proper installation of new decks.

Reasons for a deck collapsing range from age of the deck, poor maintenance, exceeding load capacity to improper building methods. Deck failures can be avoided. It's a matter of making the consumer aware of the necessity of choosing a professional deck contractor, regular maintenance and inspection, and knowing the limits of the deck structure.

Mike Beaudry, executive vice president for NADRA states, "A simple, annual deck inspection doesn't take long or require special tools, but it's a great investment. It can help prevent unnecessary accidents, and keep a deck a safe place. Each May, we will encourage homeowners to get an annual deck inspection, with the goal of reducing the number of deck injuries suffered each year."

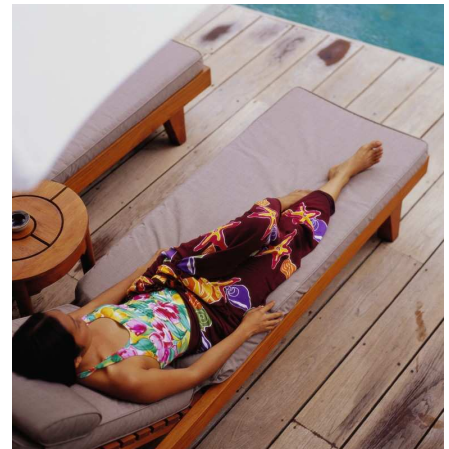
"May is a great time to make a deck-check," Beaudry continues, "especially in locations where there's a lot of snow and ice, as a deck could develop a trouble spot over the winter. A professional inspection will examine every inch

of a deck, evaluate the deck's capacity limits, identify problem areas and provide a map of what to keep your eye on in the future."

Researchers at Virginia Tech University in cooperation with the International Code Council have produced a "Manual for the Inspection of Residential Wood Decks and Balconies." The manual is intended for use by homeowners, home inspectors, contractors, engineers and builders interested in the inspection of residential wood decks.

Frank Woeste, a deck-safety expert of Virginia Tech, who helped develop the inspection manual, notes, "I'm aware of deck collapses with no one on them, further demonstrating the need for homeowners to get involved and interested in their deck's structural integrity." For more information or to purchase the inspection manual, go to www.nadra.org.

Complete a deck check every May for Deck Safety Month, and you'll have the peace of mind that comes from knowing your family and friends can safely enjoy your deck all summer long. NADRA's 10-Point Deck Inspection Checklist is available at www.nadra.org



For extra safety, check out any deck accessories you use. As with any source of fire or heat, such as grills, fire pits, heaters of any kind and candles, make sure they are safely placed away from flammable surfaces, use caution and follow manufacturers' directions. Make sure steps and pathways are well lit and all lighting, electrical outlets and appliances are up to code, in good condition and childproof if necessary.

Test all deck furniture for sturdiness. Childproof storage boxes and benches. Store all dangerous products safely away from children, including barbecue lighter fluids and matches. If you have trees surrounding your deck, look for decaying or broken limbs that could fall on the deck.

MAYOR ADDRESSES WATER FEES IMPACTING SMALL BUSINESS

Ordinance alters payment schedule for capacity fees

Mayor Karl Dean has proposed a solution for business owners negatively impacted by water capacity fees charged for new service connections by Metro Water Services.

The ordinance submitted by the Mayor's Office allows capacity fees to be paid in installments over time, removing an unintended barrier to small business development in Nashville. The capacity fees offset the effect of increased demand on the water system infrastructure.

"Nashville has seen tremendous redevelopment in our urban neighborhoods in the past few years. While these fees serve a clear purpose, they have unintentionally prevented some entrepreneurs from being able to open a small business in these areas. This ordinance is a way for us to help those business owners and make sure our economic growth continues," Mayor Karl Dean said.

Currently under the Metropolitan Code, customers establishing a new water service connection are required to pay the capacity fee in full before a permit is issued. The ordinance allows the directors of Metro Water and the Finance Department to establish a partial payment agreement with commercial customers, where payment would be made in 36 equal monthly installments.

"This legislation is clearly a good first step toward correcting the unintended consequences that have negatively affected small businesses. The mayor should be applauded for taking this step and his future willingness to look at water rates and fees overall. Erik Cole, Council member and chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, said.



Xeriscaping

Xeriscaping refers to landscaping in ways that do not require supplemental irrigation. It is used in areas of the country that do not have easily accessible supplies of fresh water. The word Xeriscaping is from the Greek word *xeros* (meaning "dry") combined with *landscape*.

Originally developed for drought-afflicted areas, xeriscapes today have broader appeal throughout the U.S. With water now considered a limited resource, landscaping projects can benefit from this alternative. LEED-certified buildings are able to receive credits for using xeriscapes techniques, whether the building is commercial or residential.

Xeriscapes do not have a single look – almost any landscaping style can be achieved. The principles can be applied to all or part of a yard, in any geographic region of the U.S.

The word Xeriscaping is from the Greek word xeros (meaning "dry") combined with landscape.

BENEFITS:

Saving Water

For most of North America, over 50% of residential water is used to irrigate landscapes and lawns. Xeriscaping can reduce landscape water use by 50-75%.

Less Maintenance

Aside from occasional pruning and weeding, maintenance is minimal. Watering requirements are low, and can be met with simple irrigation systems.

No Fertilizers or Pesticides

Using plants native to your area will eliminate the need for chemical supplements. Sufficient nutrients are provided by healthy organic soil.

Improves Property Value

A good Xeriscape can raise property values which more than offset the cost of installation.

Pollution Free

Fossil fuel consumption from gas mowers is minimized or eliminated with minimal turf areas. Small turf areas can be maintained with a reel mower.

Provides Wildlife Habitat

Use of native plants, shrubs and trees offer a familiar and varied habitat for local wildlife.

Employee Highlights

Tim Rowland Receives Promotion

Codes inspectors typically bring a specific skill to the position when joining the staff at Metro Codes and Building Safety and are assigned inspection responsibilities within their area of expertise. Each Codes inspector is also required to be examined and be certified in his or her assigned area of expertise. In the case of Tim Rowland, a four and half-year veteran in the department, his expertise now encompasses all areas of building construction and inspection.



By passing multiple certification exams in building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical inspection, Tim has earned certification as a 'Combination Inspector', and has received a promotion. Tim's 'Combination Inspector' certification includes credentials in both residential and commercial construction.

"We are so very proud of Tim's accomplishment. While all of our inspectors are certified in their area of expertise, Tim is the first of our inspectors to earn the 'Combination Inspector' certification by the International Code Council and the first of our inspectors to receive this promotion in pay grade. His attainment of this certificate is a milestone for Metropolitan Government," Terry Cobb, Director of Codes and Building Safety said. "His achievement will make this a better department and our citizens we will reap the benefits." Cobb said other inspectors are working toward this certificate as well.

While Rowland can perform inspections for building construction as well as plumbing, electrical, mechanical systems, he will primarily continue his duties as a building inspector.

However, when final inspections are requested, Rowland can make one-stop and one, combination inspection of building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems rather than sending four inspectors to conduct four final inspections or reinspections. Cobb added; "With gas prices approaching \$4 per gallon, the 'combination inspection' makes more sense than ever before!"

Originally, from Van Buren, Arkansas, Rowland and his wife Lisa and 11-year-old daughter, Mae, live in Bellevue. He holds a B.A. in English from the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville Arkansas. Before coming to Codes and Building Safety, he was employed as a carpenter and project superintendent for Grau General Contracting, LLC and Leatherwood, Inc. In his spare time, he participates in a Music City tradition...*song writing*.

"I sing, write songs and strum the guitar at various open mics and writers nights around town," Rowland said.

Save The Date - October 18th

12th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament

The 12th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament will be held on October 18th at the Ted Rhodes Golf Course. This year will again be a 4 person scramble with teams made up on a blind-draw. The \$60 entry fee includes greens fee, cart, great lunch, & more prizes.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with a Shotgun Start at 8:00 a.m. Various sponsorships will be available.

Last year's tournament, through the support of 128 golfers and 99 sponsors, resulted in a record \$20,000 being donated to three local charities through the Metro Employees Consolidated Charities Campaign (MECCC).

This year, all proceeds go to the Metro Employees Consolidated Charities Campaign for the benefit of local charities.

We look forward to this year's event and to surpassing last year's donations to the local charities.



Golfers begin to "saddle-up" as they get ready for the Shotgun Start.

Department of Codes & Building Safety

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Mayor—Karl F. Dean

Director—Terrence Cobb

Office Hours: Mon-Fri / 7:30-4:00



PASS IT ON!



Pass the word about our newsletter! We would be honored if you would share our newsletter with your colleagues and co-workers. If anyone would like to sign up to receive it themselves, they just need to send us their email, and we will be happy to "Pass It On" to them.

Terry Cobb and **Wade Hill** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to

[Wade Hill](mailto:Wade.Hill@metro-nashville.gov)

Plans Examination Chief, 862-6520



For information regarding accessibility, please contact Manley Biggers at (615) 862-6521 or fax (615) 862-6499. He can also be reached at manley.biggers@nashville.gov